



THE BRIDGE

A RESOURCE FOR AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS  
STRIVING TO SHARE THEIR FAITH

NOVEMBER 2019

The hope of the poor will not perish for ever. Ps 9:19



PROUDLY  
SUPPORTED BY



## NATIONAL PRAYER CAMPAIGN

FOR THE GIFT OF RAIN, FOR PEOPLE AFFECTED BY DROUGHT,  
FOR SUPPORT SERVICES

Eternal God, in wisdom and love you created our earth to sustain us and give us life. We turn to you now in faith, hope and love, asking you to look with favour on our drought-stricken land, on our starving animals, on our failing crops.

Strengthen, sustain and give new heart to our farmers and to all who are affected by drought; be with those who support them. In your loving providence, send abundant rain and restore our parched earth.

Father of all compassion, hear our prayer through Jesus Christ your Son, in whom the promise of new life has dawned, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life:

Renew your faithful people; renew the face of the earth.

Our Lady of the Southern Cross, Mary, Help of Christians - Pray for us.  
St Mary of the Cross MacKillop - Pray for us.

For more resources visit <https://www.catholic.org.au/drought>

## ABOUT THE COVER

'Christ among the Refugees' by Hobart artist Lucy Murfet was donated to the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office and installed on 21 August, 2018, by the Most Reverend Adolfo Tito Yllana, Apostolic Nuncio. Reproduction with permission of the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office, Canberra.

If you love your printed copy, that's great. But if you'd like to use less paper then email us today and we will email your next issue.



National Centre  
for Evangelisation  
(02) 6201 9833

[info@nce.catholic.org.au](mailto:info@nce.catholic.org.au)  
[nce.catholic.org.au](http://nce.catholic.org.au)  
[facebook.com/groups/  
AgentsofEvangelisationNetwork](https://facebook.com/groups/AgentsofEvangelisationNetwork)

THE NCE IS AN AGENCY OF THE AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE  
THE CATHOLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE IS A WORK OF THE NCE

COVER IMAGE: Christ among the Refugees

VOL 1 No.9 NOVEMBER 2019 ISSN 2209-7287

Permission to copy with acknowledgement

## AGENTS OF EVANGELISATION

TEAM RCIA

NICK WAGNER AND DIANA MACALINTAL



The shared mission of the National Centre for Evangelisation and the Catholic Enquiry Centre is to support those who want to share their faith, and those who are seeking to know more about God, Jesus and the Catholic faith. It is for this reason that the NCE and CEC are very supportive of all those who are involved in the RCIA process.

During September and October a number of dioceses hosted husband and wife team, Nick Wagner and Diana Macalintal from TeamRCIA. Whilst Diana was a keynote speaker at the Australian Pastoral Musicians Network Conference, much of their time in Australia was spent sharing their knowledge and wisdom of the RCIA. A visit to their website (<https://teamrcia.com/>) provides a rich array of resources for those who might be new to their parish RCIA team, or for the priest who is trying to start the RCIA process in his parish. In fact, I think it's a useful site for those who have been 'doing RCIA' for years. TeamRCIA gives some timely reminders that RCIA is more than just a schedule of religious lessons with a nice bit of liturgy thrown in for good measure. When the RCIA is embraced by all parishioners it can be a real catalyst for conversion, not only for the catechumens, but those in the pews as well.

Nick and Diana have also been prolific book writers. Two of which are featured in our Resources and Events section.

The NCE/CEC also supports the Christian Initiation Australia Network (CIAN). This network supports all those dedicated to the task of the catechumenate. It is currently in the process of developing a series of short videos (including some exclusive material of TeamRCIA in Australia) which will be very helpful for Australian parishes seeking RCIA resourcing. Members who pay \$35 a year will have access to these videos in the coming months. You can check their website here: [www.cianetwork.net](http://www.cianetwork.net)

## HELPING THE POOR IS FOUNDATIONAL



**AMONG  
OTHER THINGS  
I NEED  
TO SERVE  
THE POOR.**

Recently I attended a forum of Christians from different ecclesial communities to discuss the role of faith in the workplace. A colleague and I were the only Catholics in attendance, which intrigued some of our fellow attendees who were from Anglican and Lutheran backgrounds. They were surprised to see Catholics interested in matters of faith and evangelisation. One even asked if our work was administrative. "No," I replied, "we talk to people about Jesus." I could see the cognitive dissonance on his face. Maybe we had more in common than he previously thought?

Discussion eventually came around to the richness of Catholic social teaching and the long tradition of Catholics meeting the needs of the community, such as running social services and building schools, hospitals and universities. St Vincent de Paul and St Mother Teresa of Calcutta are household names. There was acknowledgement and even admiration that the 'good works' of Catholics are the undeniable strength of our tradition.

When someone gives me a pat on the back like that, it's easy to feel a sense of pride, but how much have I personally contributed to this positive aspect of Catholic history and spirituality?

When I compare myself to some of my friends, those who have a deep sense of calling and mission in their chosen forms of employment, such as nursing, teaching, or social work, I admire their enlarged hearts for the people they serve. I'm sometimes startled by their selflessness. In those moments I become very aware of my own self-obsessions and self-interest – by comparison I imagine my heart is small and shrivelled-up like in 'The Grinch Who Stole Christmas'.

In Pope Benedict XVI's first encyclical '*On Christian Love*' he wrote that, "The Church's deepest nature is expressed in her three-fold responsibility: of proclaiming the word of God, celebrating the sacraments, and exercising the ministry of charity. These duties presuppose each other and are inseparable. For the Church, charity is not a kind of welfare activity which could equally well be left to others,

but is a part of her nature, an indispensable expression of her very being." Serving the poor is a shared and critical component of the three-fold responsibility of Christians. Among other things, I need to serve the poor.

Bishop Robert Barron has made the observation that when we look at the primary theme of each of the three recent popes, we can see that they each emphasised one aspect of this three-fold work of the Church: under Pope St John Paul II, he emphasised proclaiming the word of God, travelling to multiple countries calling people to faith in Christ. Under Pope Benedict XVI, he emphasised God's transcendence and experiencing the divine through a rich life of worship, and under Pope Francis, he repeatedly implores us to care for the poor. Each Pope has brought one aspect of this work to the fore, but all three responsibilities are foundational.

In a recent Sunday gospel reading (Luke 16:19-31), there is the confronting parable of the rich man and Lazarus. This story has always bothered me. A poor man is lying at the door of the anonymous and soon to be forgotten rich man. They both die and Lazarus goes to the arms of Abraham in heaven and the rich man goes to punishment.

What's confronting about this story is what dictates where you go – it comes down to your attitude and action or non-action toward the poor. In this story, getting into heaven isn't based on whether you have faith in Jesus, but did you feed the poor? Of all the sins that one can possibly commit, this one is pointed out in particular: ignoring the poor who are among us.

The story ends with the rich man begging that Lazarus be sent to warn his brothers. Abraham responds if they won't listen to Moses and the Prophets, they won't listen to someone who rises from the dead.

Jesus echoed these sentiments in his famous words to those who are not getting into heaven in Matthew 25, "I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink. I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." It's too easy for me to presume this work will be taken care of by the professionals, but it's not too late for you and me to do something about it.



**MARCUS AMANN**  
Senior Mission Projects Officer  
Catholic Enquiry Centre  
[marcus.amann@catholic.org.au](mailto:marcus.amann@catholic.org.au)

## MISSION PROJECTS PRISON MINISTRY CHAPLAINS AND VOLUNTEERS



On the night of 30 June 2018, nearly 43,000 people spent the night in jail in Australia. We could easily double or triple that number for those who were deeply impacted by this reality.

Across the country, Catholics and people from other Christian denominations have accepted Jesus' challenge to visit prisoners (Mat 25:36). A visit to the Kairos Prison Ministry Australia website (<http://kairos.org.au/>) will update you on the amazing outreach being done by volunteers, as well as statistics on the reasons people end up being imprisoned. This month the Catholic Church acknowledges all those involved in prison ministry, and encourages us to pray for the prisoners and their families.

A number of years ago the Catholic Enquiry Centre produced a resource that is ideal for those working in prison ministry. Hearing God's Call is a series of DVDs that can be easily accessed by those living in prisons, as well as those who find themselves as regular users of homeless shelters and the like. It is an introduction to the Catholic faith which also draws the listener into a deeper understanding of Jesus and his love for each and every person. The audio version is also available from our website (see links in the Resources section).

Thanks to our many donors who make it possible for us to either donate or subsidise our resources for use in prison ministry. And thanks to our prison chaplains and volunteers, as it is through your efforts that many prisoners take the journey of accepting Christ into their lives, and on many occasions becoming members of our Catholic faith community. Indeed, these volunteers are bringing hope to the hopeless.



**SHARON BREWER**  
Mission Projects Manager  
Catholic Enquiry Centre  
[mission@nce.catholic.org.au](mailto:mission@nce.catholic.org.au)



---

## INSPIRATION

PAMELA AND EDWIN GALEA



Pamela and Edwin Galea met in church through music ministry in the late 1960s and joined the Legion of Mary soon after. Even then they realised the need to serve, connecting to people in love, “sharing God’s love” in words, and often in actions. Edwin worked for the bank for 34 years and Pamela raised the children.

They discovered the Catholic Cursillo Movement and became very active in it. Cursillo means a ‘little course’, where up to 25 people will attend a three day ‘course’ reflecting on the meaning of one’s own baptism, and how this leads to a responsibility to evangelise. Its motto is, ‘Make a Friend, Be a Friend, Bring that friend to Christ’. Here, ‘encounter’ is the valid word as no-one can evangelise and witness unless people find you are someone they can get to know and trust.

Cursillo led the Galeas to ‘Kairos’. It is a program for prisoners and their families: an ecumenical course that sticks to the central theme that “nothing can separate us from the love of God,” and so encourages people to forgive themselves because “Christ died on a cross for me.” Its motto is, “Listen Listen, Love Love”. Volunteers must have completed a Cursillo, for, as Edwin says, “you can’t give what you haven’t received”.

Kairos is a ‘quality assured program’, which means the prison authorities are certain about the content, and team members are confident about the process. Kairos team members give the talks, share of their friendship, and provide the meals. There are normally four ‘families’ each comprising six inmates and three volunteers around a table who slowly become friends. Edwin says, “It is easier to come to God and, for many, is a conversion of heart when people are broken. This is grace filled work.”

---

By 1999 Pamela and Edwin reflected on the fruits of their commitment in their own part-time church work. Their prayer was always, “Lord, is this what you want me to do?” They moved to the NSW Southern Highlands to be led into full-time Christian ministry. It was a call to “live in faith”. They had “got rid of the mortgage” but there was no money left over. How to survive? They believed that God had said, “Trust me”. There they volunteered as Catechists, in music ministry, and in leading Catholic Alpha courses. Kairos became a full-time volunteer effort.

It was their two daughters’ desire to study in Sydney that changed all this. Pamela and Edwin returned to Sydney to provide a home for them. Within two weeks they found a place in Sydney and rented their own place. They continued with Kairos but had to find jobs to make ends meet. Because of his earlier experience, Edwin became a Pastoral Associate at the North Sydney Parish and Pamela found employment with White Lady Funerals.

Years later, when a Prison Chaplain job was advertised, people repeatedly encouraged Pamela to apply. She said, “I’ll just make a phone call and see what happens.” They were living in North Sydney and the job in Emu Plains was so far away. She says, “We let God work it out.”

After many interviews she was given the job as, she found out later, “they were after someone who approached them from the heart.” She says of this time: “I’m not good in interviews – God made it happen.” Each life experience had built on the previous one – “He’s the God of order.” Edwin reflects, “When he calls us he makes sure we’re ready and prepared for it.”

Until recently they have both been working at the John Morony Correctional Complex, Windsor. Now back in the Southern Highlands, Pamela and Edwin have retired. Together they reflect: “it has been an absolute privilege ... in the giving we receive.”

“Once you talk with them one to one, you listen – you’ve done nothing but listen. That’s what matters the most. For an inmate to be able to speak the truth, show how they’re really feeling, is rare in prison ... to give them respect ... we love listening.”

Read more about Pamela and Edwin’s work as Prison Chaplains at the Morony Correctional Centre:

<https://catholicoutlook.org/prison-chaplaincy-caring-for-hearts/>

---

## HOW DO I SHARE MY FAITH? WITH MY WORK COLLEAGUES



Non-Christians, by God’s gracious initiative, when they are faithful to their own consciences, can live “justified by the grace of God”, and thus be “associated to the paschal mystery of Jesus Christ”.  
Pope Francis EG 254

- In this case, sharing is a two-way street. Sharing with another person about what you believe and what you hold to be true should be reciprocated by listening to what the other person believes and holds to be true. This does not mean you should acquiesce to what other faith traditions profess, but it could open your mind to those values we hold in common.
- Following on from the previous point, the more you know about your faith the more you can share it. Currently there is a tendency to get bogged down in all the bad points of our faith, yet the Catholic faith is so rich in its spiritual offerings, its liturgical celebrations, its outreach programs and so on – let’s not forget to sing the praises of our God and our faith.
- Are you aware of the issues commonly cited as reasons why people don’t like the Catholic faith? Are you able to give a defence for any of those issues? For example, why do Catholics hold Mary in high esteem, or do we believe the bread and wine we receive at Mass is truly the body and blood of Christ? It might be helpful to have a well thought through response to these questions – mindful of always being respectful to those who would disagree with us.
- Invite non-Catholics along to events happening in your parish. For example, the parish fete or ecumenical prayer services. Be prepared to reciprocate if possible.
- When discussing ideas that are completely outside the Christian Tradition look for elements of truth in what you are hearing and explain how you see them as helpful to your understanding of your faith. Another approach is reflect, aloud, on what gives life and what is an obstacle to growth in life.

## ADVENT RESOURCES



### THE WAY - DIOCESE OF WOLLONGONG

An 84-page pocket-size book containing short, spiritually rich, daily reflections from the beginning of Advent (1 December 2019) through to the Baptism of the Lord (12 January 2020) primarily for personal use, but also appropriate for group use such as parish, Church agency, religious community and school staff/class prayer.

To download a sample and order visit:

<http://bit.ly/369wa3f>



### CENTRE FOR FAITH ENRICHMENT ARCHDIOCESE OF PERTH

#### Preparing for the Coming of the Saviour

Wednesdays 7:00pm from 6th November. Canning Vale Parish, 151 Amherst Road, Canning Vale.

#### Mary, Me and the Coming of Christ

Thursdays from 7th November. Online course.

#### Making our hearts, homes and community ready for Christ

Thursdays 7:00pm from 14th November. Ellenbrook Parish, cnr Coolamon Drive and Strathmore Parkway, Ellenbrook.

#### Christ and the Future of our Life

Tuesdays 7:30pm from 19 November. Kelmscott Parish, 42 Streich Avenue, Kelmscott.

#### The Birth of Jesus and Christmas

Thursdays 7:30pm from 5th December. Online course.

Visit <https://cfe.org.au/courses-and-events/>

### ADVENT ONLINE RESOURCES

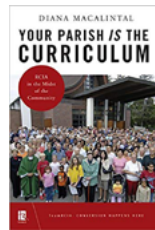
This site offers many simple ways to enter into this Advent season, week by week, in the midst of our everyday lives. A wealth of resources.

<https://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/>

Creighton University is a Jesuit Catholic University in Omaha, Nebraska, USA.



## TEAM RCIA



### YOUR PARISH IS THE CURRICULUM

Fr Andrew Doohan, Vicar General, Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, says in his book review: "Diana Macalintal argues passionately for a recognition that the proper ministers of the RCIA process is not the parish RCIA team, or the pastors, or the parish catechists – though they certainly have important roles to play. The proper ministers of the RCIA process, a process that is intrinsic to the identity of the Church, is the entire parish itself."

Read the full review at <http://bit.ly/2MZrkWV>

Christian Initiation Australia Network's review:

<http://bit.ly/2JbXrZ4>



### FIELD HOSPITAL CATECHESIS: THE CORE CONTENT FOR RCIA FORMATION

Fr Andrew Doohan, Vicar General, Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, says in his book review: "This book offers suggestions and potential practices for use at a variety of points of the Christian journey – first proclamation, initiatory catechesis, and ongoing catechesis – that focus primarily on the three stages of the story of Jesus, i.e. The Beginning, The Climax, and The End. Embracing the possibilities outlined in this volume raises the potential of a new commitment to the missionary dimension of the Church above all things."

Read the full review at: <http://bit.ly/2JbZfBi>

Christian Initiation Australia Network's review:

<http://bit.ly/31BhnLI>

## NATIONAL CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES CONFERENCE



### SERVING COMMUNITIES WITH COURAGE AND COMPASSION

26 – 28 February 2020. Program includes:

Francis Sullivan: serving communities with courage and compassion; Mary MacKillop Oration by Ursula Stephens; Harnessing media to advance mission and powerful advocacy; Catholic social services challenged to advance Indigenous recognition

Visit <https://www.css.org.au/Serving-Communities>

## OUTREACH



### DO NOT BE AFRAID – Mental Illness and Outreach: Guidelines for Parishes

ACBC Disability Projects Office. One in five Australians will develop mental illness during their lifetime. This 66 page full colour book of resources has been put together to assist parish members to understand people they know or meet who may have mental illness and to feel confident in responding to them. The parish as a whole may identify ways to help people with mental illness feel more welcome and valued for their gifts and contribution.

To purchase visit <http://bit.ly/ACBCNotAfraid>



### PATHWAYS FOR SENIORS

The Sandhurst Diocese 'Pathways for Seniors' online resource contains a wide variety of live links. These offer information, networks and resources to enrich and support 'Over 55s' in their continuing journeys in Faith, Prayer, Spirituality and community connections. Enjoy exploring via computer, smart 'phone or tablet!

[www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au/item/1587-pathways-for-seniors-2019](http://www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au/item/1587-pathways-for-seniors-2019)



### HEARING GOD'S CALL

A special resource for people with impaired vision, people in prison, and people with an intellectual disability, people in bed in hospital, or those new to the English language.

Hearing God's Call is an audio CD set (4 cd's) presenting the Catholic Faith in 30 ten-minute sessions. For each chapter there is a film with a booklet (introduction and detailed questions), as well as a Journal which provides the text (read aloud in the CD), questions for personal reflection, and a prayer. These resources support a one to one or group session and are free.

Listen at <https://soundcloud.com/catholic-enquiry-centre/sets/what-do-catholics-believe>

To purchase visit <http://bit.ly/2p67SXp>